

Spain became, for the time being, the centre of interest.

Journalists who had been together in Addis Ababa, met again in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, and on the banks of the Ebro; military commentators elucidated pincer and other movements, and referred knowingly to Spanish winter conditions which made operations impossible, as they had previously to Abyssinian rains, and would later to Polish mud. Friends of the Soviet Union became for the duration Friends of Republican Spain; clergymen attested that churches in Barcelona and Madrid were freely operating, and other clergymen that they had been destroyed or were being used for other than religious purposes; parties of Members of Parliament visited one or other side, and reported on what they saw enthusiastically or critically according to their predilections. Round Guernica a battle raged long after fighting there had ended, some insisting that it had been ruthlessly destroyed by German bombing-planes, others that local Communists had set fire to it before removing themselves.

Until other horrors invalidated it, Guernica was the current symbol of ruthless aggression, and was made the subject of a picture by Picasso.

Mr. Stephen Spender announced his departure for Insurgent territory, where, he wrote, there was a bullet addressed to him;¹⁹ Mr. Auden contributed a poem in blank verse on the conflict's dialectical implications; Professor J. B. S. Haldane's spirit was uplifted in Madrid, Major Yeats-Brown's in Burgos, and Mr. Attlee met with an enthusiastic reception when he paid a fraternal visit to the Republican Government. In honour of the occasion,

one of the International Brigade's companies was
named after
him, the other British contingent having been
named after
Saklatvala, Americans who had volunteered for
service in Spain,
preferred older heroes—Lincoln and Washington
rather than
Sacco and Vanzetti for their patrons. Mr. Attlee,
Saklatvala,

Kingdom of Christ remains standing . . . because it is
guaranteed by the
Word of God.'

¹⁹ If so, it was not delivered,